

What is claimed is:

1. A method for regenerating the NO<sub>x</sub> catalyst in a NO<sub>x</sub> purifying system provided in the exhaust passage with a direct reduction type NO<sub>x</sub> catalyst which directly decomposes the NO<sub>x</sub> during lean-condition operation and is regenerated during rich-condition operation, comprising the step of, prohibiting the rich-condition control when the temperature detected by a catalyst temperature detecting means is within a predetermined temperature range.
2. A NO<sub>x</sub> purifying system provided in the exhaust gas passage with a direct reduction type NO<sub>x</sub> catalyst which directly decomposes the NO<sub>x</sub> in the exhaust gas during lean-condition operation and is regenerated during rich-condition operation, comprising a catalyst temperature detecting means, and a control device for controlling to prohibit the rich-condition control when the temperature detected by said catalyst temperature detecting means is within a predetermined temperature range.